UNITED NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/23104
1 October 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 SEPTEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF CHINA, FRANCE, THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to enclose the text of the statement issued following the meeting which you held on 27 September 1991 with our Ministers of Foreign Affairs. We should be grateful if you would arrange for it to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Daoyu
Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations

(Signed) Yuli M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
to the United Nations

(Signed) David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the
United Nations

(Signed) Thomas R. PICKERING
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the
the United Nations

Annex

Statement issued on 27 September 1991 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the five permanent members of the Security Council following a meeting with the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese/English/ French/Russian]

On 27 September 1991, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the five permanent members of the Security Council were the guests at a luncheon given by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. Taking part were the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China H.E. Mr. Qian Qichen; the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of France H.E. Mr. Roland Dumas; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics H.E. Mr. Boris D. Pankin; the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland H.E. Mr. Douglas Hurd; and the Secretary of State of the United States of America H.E. Mr. James A. Baker III.

The Ministers paid tribute to the Secretary-General for his distinguished service to the United Nations during his 10 years at the head of the Organization. They affirmed that his integrity and dedication to the principles of the Charter had contributed in large measure to the high standing which the Organization enjoys, especially with regard to the resolution of regional conflicts.

The Ministers, meeting the Secretary-General in continuation of their close consultation as permanent members of the Security Council, noted that the rapid changes which had taken place on the international scene over the past year were reflected in positive changes in the role of the United Nations. They reaffirmed that a revitalized United Nations had a central and increasingly important part to play in international affairs, in keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter, and in creating a new international order. They agreed to make preventive diplomacy a top priority, and to work for a reinforcement of the Organization's role in peace-keeping and peacemaking. In this connection they welcomed the extension of the United Nations peace-keeping activities over the past year in Angola, Western Sahara and Central America and on the Iraq/Kuwait border, and undertook to give these and other such operations their full and continuing support.

The Ministers and the Secretary-General reviewed the role of the Security Council in bringing about the restoration of Kuwait's independence and sovereignty, and in dealing with the continuing consequences of Iraq's aggression. The Ministers agreed that the events in the Gulf over the past year showed that the Security Council could be effective in upholding international law when it remained firm in its resolve. They regard as

unacceptable the pattern of persistent Iraqi non-compliance with resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions of the Security Council inter alia over Iraq's programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction, and in particular Iraq's obstruction of United Nations inspection teams and defiance of Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991). They reaffirmed their determination to secure Iraq's full and scrupulous compliance with these and all other relevant resolutions in order to bring about the Council's objective of restoring international peace and security in the area and to ensure that the humanitarian needs of all segments of the Iraqi population are met.

The Ministers welcomed the efforts of all the parties concerned to work for the early convening of a peace conference on the Middle East to launch direct negotiations, with the United Nations Secretary-General sending an observer and also with the Gulf Cooperation Council sending its Secretary-General as an observer, under the co-sponsorship of the Governments of the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and with the European Community sending a representative. They urged all parties to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues so that an active negotiating process can get under way leading to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. They reaffirmed that negotiations should be based on resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council and should take into account the right to security for all States in the region, including Israel, and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

The Ministers expressed their deep concern over the situation in Yugoslavia and its regional repercussions. They welcomed the unanimous adoption of resolution 713 (1991) by the Security Council. They appreciated the efforts undertaken by the member States of the European Community, with the support of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, to restore peace and dialogue in Yugoslavia and expressed their hope that the latest endeavours of Lord Carrington will help to consolidate the cease-fire and thus pave the way for the successful outcome of the Conference on Yugoslavia.

The Ministers welcomed the progress made in recent months towards a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodia conflict on the basis of the Framework worked out by the five permanent members of the Security Council, and in particular the formation of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, the election of H.E. Prince Norodom Sihanouk as its Chairman and the successful operation of the Council under his Chairmanship, as well as the institution of a cease-fire by the Cambodian parties. They noted with satisfaction the successful outcome of the meetings held on 20 to 21 September in New York by the five permanent members, members of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, the two Co-Chairmen of the Paris Conference on Cambodia and the Coordinating Committee of the Paris Conference. The Ministers welcomed the intention to reconvene the Paris Conference for the signature at the end of October or early in November of agreements on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict, which will involve an important role for the United Nations.

The Ministers reiterated their full support of the Secretary-General's Statement on Afghanistan of 21 May 1991 laying down basic principles of a political settlement in that country. They welcomed the US-Soviet Joint Statement on Afghanistan issued on 13 September 1991 and the agreement of the USSR and USA to discontinue their weapons deliveries to all Afghan sides from 1 January 1992 as a major step to bring about a cessation of hostilities and facilitate launching an intra-Afghan negotiating process which should lead, with active United Nations involvement, to the establishment of a broad-based government through a free and fair electoral process. They call on all the Governments and parties concerned to cooperate with these efforts, and in particular with the Secretary-General, in order to promote a political settlement in Afghanistan. The Ministers expressed the hope that early efforts be made to resolve humanitarian questions including the plight of Afghan refugees and Soviet POWs.

The Ministers welcomed the signature on 25 September by representatives of the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation of the "New York Accords". They congratulated the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and the Governments of Colombia, Mexico, Spain and Venezuela on the success of their efforts. They expressed the hope that the negotiations due to resume on 12 October would lead to rapid progress towards the resolution of all outstanding problems. They call on the parties to continue to show restraint and to cooperate fully with ONUSAL.

The Ministers also reviewed with the Secretary-General certain other current regional disputes, and expressed full support for his continuing efforts. They urge all parties to the Western Sahara conflict to contribute to the full and timely implementation of the Secretary-General's settlement plan. They call upon all parties to the Cyprus dispute to extend the fullest cooperation to the Secretary-General at this crucial time in resolving outstanding differences, enabling significant progress to be made towards a viable and just resolution of this long-standing problem. They believe that all parties should work to ensure the convening of a high-level international meeting in New York under the aegis of the Secretary-General.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the movement towards the dismantling of the apartheid system in South Africa and expressed the hope that this process will be accelerated.

The Ministers thanked the Secretary-General for his invitation to their meeting, which had once again offered an opportunity for a timely and constructive exchange of views.